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MEMORANDUM

April 24, 1964

TO: J. Lee Rankin

FROM: W. David Slawson

SUBJECT: Allegations of John B. Martino, Author of the Book Entitled, "I Was Castro's Prisoner"; Supplemental Memorandum

Reference is made to my memorandum to you on this subject dated April 1, 1964. In that memorandum I concluded that we should follow up on Mr. Martino's allegations of a Cuban conspiracy behind Lee Harvey Oswald's assassination of the President. Since that memorandum was written, the FBI has independently followed up on Mr. Martino. The FBI reports that have come in are Commission Nos. 810 and 812.

In substance, what has happened is this: Both John Martino and Nathaniel Weyl, the writer who helped Martino write his book, has been asked to name their sources or other evidence. With one exception, both men have refused to do so, although Martino has gone so far as to admit that his sources are not primary sources but only men who told him that they had sources who could prove what was said. Martino especially seems rather vague on where he got his information. The one exception is that Weyl named a man named "Buchanan" who used to work in Miami for an anti-Castro group who is supposed to have told Weyl that Lee Harvey Oswald was seen among some pro-Castroites in Miami in March 1963 and October 1962 passing out Fair Play for Cuba literature. When approached on this, Buchanan backed up the statement in general but was very vague on when exactly and where he saw Oswald. Buchanan finally said it was his brother who really saw Oswald.

The tenor of both Commission reports is that Weyl and Martino have no real evidence for their allegations. In view of the fact that the FBI has already followed up on this subject, and because this follow-up has shown the weakness of the allegations, I feel that my conclusion in the April 1 memorandum that the Commission should call Martino as a witness no longer holds. I would now recommend that we let the whole thing drop unless some new evidence which changes the picture appears.

cc: Mr. Rankin's Chron File
Mail Room Files
Mr. Slawson